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на английском языке
для развития навыков чтения и устной речи
для студентов I курса
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Russia

Text 1

The Geographical position

a) Learn the following words:

Attract(v) -	Be scattered with –
Be proud of -	Swamp (n) –
Admire (v) -	Valley (n) –
Achievement (n) -	Ravine (n) –
Locate (v) -	Boundary (n) –
Border (v) on -	Reach (v) –
Wash (v) -	Merge (v) -
Be connected with ... through... –	Be bounded by
	Comprise (v) –
Occupy (v) -	Peninsula (n) –
Relief (n) -	Island (n) –
Plain (n) -	Dense (adj.) –

b) Read the Text

The Geographical position

Russia, the largest country in the world, has always attracted visitors from neighbouring and distant countries. Russia is proud of its architecture, painting, and music. A lot of tourists come to our country to see its beauty and to admire its cultural achievements. As a rule they want to visit Moscow, St. Petersburg and the towns of the «Golden Ring».

Russia is located in the eastern part of Europe and in the northern part of Asia. It borders on thirteen countries. Russia is washed by twelve seas and three oceans. Russia is connected with the Atlantic Ocean through the Baltic Sea in the west and the Black Sea in the south. The Arctic Ocean and its seas including the White, Barents, Kara, Laptev, East-Siberian Seas wash Russia in the north. The Pacific Ocean and its seas the Bering, Okhotsk, and Japanese Seas are in the east of Russia.

The Russian Plain, the Ural Mountains, the West Siberian Plain, the Central Siberian Plateau, and the Far East are the main areas of Russia.

The Russian Plain occupies the European part of Russia. There are low, rolling uplands and broad rivers there. In the north the relief of the plain is scattered with lakes and swamps. In the southern part of the plain the river basins are cut by valleys and ravines.

The Urals form the eastern boundary of the Russian Plain. The Ural Mountains separate Europe from Asia. The Urals stretch for about 2,100km from north to south. The highest peak, Mount Narodnaya, reaches 1,895m, and other mountain tops range from 900 to 1,500m.

The West Siberian Plain merges in the east with the Central Siberian Plateau. The easternmost part of Russia is bounded by various mountain chains. The Far East of Russia comprises the Kamchatka and Chukchi peninsulas and the Kuril and Sakhalin islands.

Russia's greatest rivers are the Don and Volga in its European part, and the Ob and Yenisey in West Siberia. The Ob is the longest river in Russia, but the Volga is the most important one. Many Russian towns are located along the Volga river.

Russia is densely populated, but its population is unequally distributed. People prefer to live in the European part of the country. Siberia is thinly inhabited, though its economic development was rapid in the second half of the 20th century. The northern part of Russia is practically uninhabitable because of the length and severity of its winters. There are more than sixty nationalities and ethnic groups in Russia. Russia is an urban country – the majority of the Russian citizens live in cities. As Russia occupies vast territories there are various climatic zones in the country. Continental climate, with cold winters and hot summers prevails on the territory of Russia. The harshness of the Russian climate limits the amount of the arable land to about one-seventh of the total territory.

c) Find English equivalents, and read and translate the sentences with them.

Ближние и дальние страны, как правило, главные районы, холмистые возвышенности, широкие реки, бассейн реки, простираются на ...с севера на юг, горные цепи, неравномерно распределены, малонаселенный, экономическое развитие, практически необитаемый, из-за, климатическая зона, континентальный климат, пахотные земли, 1/7 общей площади.

d). Answer the questions:

1. Why does Russia attract visitors from neighbouring and distant countries?
2. Where is Russia located?
3. What seas and oceans wash the country?
4. What are the main areas of Russia?
5. What can you say about each of them?
6. Are there any rivers in Russia?
7. Russia is equally inhabited throughout all the territory, isn't it?
8. Is Russia an urban or a rural country?
9. Why are there various climatic zones in the country?
10. What is the amount of the arable land?

e) Speak about the geographical position of Russia.

Text 2

Economy

a) Learn the following words:

Latitudinal (adj.) -

Extend (v) -

Replace (v) -

Transfer (v) -

Farmland (n)-

Pasture (n)-

Meadow (n)-

Deposit (v)-

Determine (v)-

Machinery (n)-

Freight (v)-

Highway (n)-

Maritime (adj.)-

Equipment (n)-

b) Find English equivalents in the text, add some you know and make up a table.

Растительность	Культуры			
	Кормовые	Потребительские	Промышленные-	Зерновые
1				1
2	1	1	1	2
3	2	2	2	3
4	3	3	3	4
5	4	4	4	5
6	5	5	5	6

c) Read the Text.

Economy

Different latitudinal climatic regimes are mirrored in Russia's flora. A treeless tundra with mosses and grasses extends along the entire Arctic coast. In the south it gives way to taiga. This coniferous forest growing on swampy ground covers more than half of the country. In European Russia, towards the south the taiga is replaced by a zone of mixed coniferous and deciduous forest which in the south transfers into mixed forest- steppe and finally into the almost treeless, grass-covered steppe.

About three-fifths of Russian farmland is used to grow crops. The rest of it is given to pasture and meadow. Grain has always been the chief product - mainly wheat, rye, barley, and oats- along with such fodder crops as grasses, clover, root crops, and corn. Russia's industrial crops are sunflower seeds, sugar beets, and flax. Such consumer crops as potatoes and other vegetables are grown widely in Russia.

Russia has the richest deposits of mineral resources in the world. It is one of the world's biggest producers of coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as of iron ore, copper, zinc, lead, nickel, aluminium, and tin. The development of the Russian economy is determined by its natural resources. Russia's heavy industries are well- developed. They produce much of the nation's steel and most of its heavy machinery, such as steam boilers, grain - harvesting combines, automobiles, locomotives, and machine tools. Russia's chemical industry is also well developed. Light industry centres on the production of textiles.

All kinds of transports are used in Russia. Some of them are well-developed, others leave much to be desired. Railways account for about 90 per cent of the country's movement of freight. The Trans-Siberian Railroad is rightfully famous. Highways link major cities.

Maritime transport is very important, both on sea and by river and canal. Aeroflot is among the world's largest airlines in terms of quantity of equipment and flights.

d) Answer the questions:

1. What types of vegetation are there on the territory of Russia?
2. How much of Russian farmland is used to grow crops?
3. What mineral resources is Russia rich in?
4. What industries are developed in Russia?
5. What can you say about the transport system of the country?

e) Speak about the economy of Russia.

Text 3

Read the text

Remember:

legislative power – законодательная власть

judicial power – судебная власть

a bill – законопроект

to approve – одобрять

a treaty – договор (международный)

to enforce (a law) – проводить в жизнь (закон)

court – суд

popular vote – всенародное голосование

RF STATE SYSTEM

The Russian Federative Republic is set up by the Constitution of 1993.

Under the Constitution Russia is a Presidential Republic. The federal government consists of three branches: legislative, executive and judicial. Each of them is checked and balanced by the President.

The legislative power belongs to the Federal Assembly (the Russian parliament). It consists of two chambers. The Upper Chamber (the Council of Federation) is made up of the representatives of all the subjects of the Federation. The Lower Chamber (the State Duma) is made up of 450 deputies. Each Chamber is headed by the Speaker. Laws are made by Parliament. To become a law a bill must be approved by both Chambers and signed by the President. The President may veto [vi:t3u] the bill.

The President is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, he makes treaties, enforces laws, appoints ministers to be approved by the Federal Assembly. The executive power belongs to the Government which is headed by the Prime Minister. The first action of the Prime Minister on appointment is to form the Cabinet.

The judicial power is represented by the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and regional courts.

The members of the Federal Assembly are elected by popular vote for a four-year period.

Today the state symbol of Russia is a three-coloured flag. It has three horizontal stripes: white, blue and red. The white stripe symbolizes the earth, the blue one stands for the sky, and the red one symbolizes liberty. It was the first state symbol that replaced the former symbols in 1991. B. Alexandroff composed music for our national anthem. The words to it were written by S. Mikhalkov. A new national emblem is a two-headed eagle. It is the most ancient symbol of Russia. It originates from the heraldic emblem of the Ruricovitchies. All these symbols are official. They have been approved by the Federal Assembly.

The state language of the country is Russian. It is spoken throughout the whole territory of the Russian Federation. Meanwhile each republic within Russia has its own national language.

Answer the questions to the text:

1. When was the Russian Federative Republic set up?
2. What branches does the federal government consist of?
3. How are laws made by the Russian Parliament?
4. What are the chambers of the Federal Assembly?
5. What is the highest executive power in Russia?
6. Who represents the judicial power?
7. How are the members of the Federal Assembly elected?
8. What are the President's duties?
9. What are the symbols of Russia?
10. Who are the authors of the national anthem?
11. What is the state language of Russia?
12. What is the state system of the Russian Federative Republic?
13. What parties are represented in the Russian Parliament today?

Text 4

a) Read the text using a dictionary.

Great centres of Russia

Nowadays Moscow is the capital of Russia. It is the largest city of the country. Moscow lies in the valley of the Moskva river. Moscow is a political, administrative, economic, industrial, educational and cultural centre of the Russian Federation. A lot of educational institutions are located here.

There are many places of interest in Moscow. There are a lot of historical monuments, museums, art galleries and theatres in the city. The Historical Museum, the State Pushkin Museum of Fine Arts, the State Tretyakov Gallery are known all over the world. The Bolshoy, Maly, Art theatres are famous too.

The Kremlin – the oldest historical and architectural centre – is the heart of Moscow. At first the Kremlin was a wooden fort. Under Dmitry Donskoy the Kremlin was built of white stone. Redbrick walls and towers replaced the walls of white stone at the end of the 15th century.

Red Square is the ceremonial centre of the capital. At its one end we can see Cathedral of St. Basil's the Blessed. It was built in the mid-16 century for Tsar Ivan IV to commemorate the victory over the Golden Horde. The Historical Museum locks the other end of Red Square. Next to it one can see the reconstructed Iverskaya Chapel and the Resurrection gates. Alexander Gardens, laid out at the beginning of the 19-th century, are located beneath the Kremlin walls. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is near the entrance to the Gardens. It is the major memorial to the warriors of the Great Patriotic War.

St. Petersburg is the second Russia's largest city. St. Petersburg, one of the most beautiful cities of Europe, has played an important role in Russian history. It was founded by Peter I in 1703. St. Petersburg is situated on the Neva river. The city once spread across nearly 100 islands. Canals and natural channels make St. Petersburg a city of waterways and bridges. For two centuries St. Petersburg was the capital of the Russian Empire. After the revolution of 1917, which took place in St. Petersburg it was renamed into Leningrad. During World War II the city was besieged and fiercely defended. Today the city is an important industrial centre and the nation's largest seaport. In 1991 St. Petersburg got its original name back.

Central St. Petersburg is divided by the Neva River into four parts: the Admiralty Side, Vasilyevsky Island, the Petrograd Side, and the Vyborg Side. The Admiralty Side is rich in museums, monuments, historical buildings and squares. From the Admiralty, the heart of Peter's city, an avenue known as Nevsky Prospect runs eastward. There are a lot of palaces, churches, stores, cafes, and theatres there. There are many important educational and scientific research centres in St. Petersburg.

St.Petersburg is a city of culture. There are a lot of theatres and concert halls there. The Mariinsky Theatre has long enjoyed an international reputation. Famous museums include the State Russian Museum, specializing in Russian painting, and the Hermitage with a rich collection of western European painting. In St.Petersburg there are many stadiums and other outdoor recreation facilities provided by the Kirov Park, the Zoo, the botanical gardens, and other parks and gardens.

Among the most notable towns of the “Golden Ring”route are Pereslavl-Zalessky, the birthplace of the Russian Prince Alexandr Nevsky; Rostov Veliky, the finest and largest town of Prince Andrew Bogolubsky’s principality; Borisoglebsky, the Fortress - Monastery, founded for the protection of the travelers; Uglich, the tragic stage of Tsarevich Dmitry death; Kostroma, known for its elaborate churches and cathedrals; Yaroslavl, Vladimir, Suzdal, and others. All these towns played a very important role in the making of the state of Russia.

b) Answer the questions:

1. What city can be called the capital of the country?
2. What kind of city is Moscow?
3. What is the historic heart of Moscow?
4. What is the ceremonial centre of the capital?
5. What is the second largest city in Russia?
6. Has St.Petersburg got a rich history?
7. How many parts is central St.Petersburg divided into?
8. What is the city famous for?
9. What are the other notable towns and cities of Russia? What are they famous for?